Sainik Samachar

465. SHRI J. P. JAVALI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Defence Ministry proposed to introduce Kannada edition of SAINIK SAMACHAR, news-magazine, some years back:

(b) if so, whether the Kannada edition has come out, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when the Kannada edition is likely to be published?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) The Kannada edition could not be brought out so far due to lack of suitable editorial staff and some delay in finalisation of a printer.

(c) All efforts are being made to bring out the inaugural issue of the Kannada edition within the next two months.

in Supreme Court

466. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the backlog of cases in the Supreme Court as on 31st October, 1988:

(b) whether the backlog of cases is increasing or decreasing;

(c) what are the measures contemplated to speed up the cases in view of the heavy backlog of pending cases in Supreme Court;

(d) what is the ratio of Supreme Court Judges in relation to population, filling of cases and other relevant parameters in our country when compared to developed countries; and

(e) the number of vacancies of judges in Supreme Court and the reasons for delay in the appointment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI HANS RAJ BHARDWAJ): (a) As per information furnished by the Registiy of the Supreme Court the backlog OF cases in the Court as on 30th June, 1988 is as follows:

Regular Hearing Matters .	39936
Admission and Miscellaneous Mr iters	146014
TOTAL .	185950

(b) The number of cases is increasing.

' (C) A statement indicating t'ne steps taken from time to time to reduce pendency of cases in the Supreme Court is attached in Statement (See below)

(d) In India, the st-engtli of Judges in Suprerne Court is determined by institution|pendency of cises and on the basis of proposal sent by the Chief Justice *oi* India, from time to time. No study regarding ratio of Supreme Court Judges in relation to population and in comparison to developed countries has been undertaken. The strength of th? Supreme Cou't Judges was raised to 26 Judges (including the Chief Justice of India) by enactment of the Supreme Court (Number of Judges') (Amendment) Act. 1986.

(e) As on 10th Nove-nber, 1988, there were 11 vacancies of Judges in Supreme Court against the sanctioned strength of 26 Judges (including the Chief Justice of Tndia), The process of consultation for filling Up the vacancies takes time.

Statement

1. The judge strength of the Supreme Court has been raised from 18 to 26 (including the Chief Justice, with effect from 9th May, 1986 by amending the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act 1956.

2. The following steps are being taken in the Supreme Court to expedite disposal of :ases:—

(i) Matters involving common question of law are grouped together and listed te groups so that they can all be disposed of together.

(ii) ln most of the matters, printing of the appeal record is dispensed with, which saves a lot of time and expense of the litigants. In criminal appeals, counsel for the appellant is required to file cyclostyled record to save time, which would otherwise be taken in getting the record printed. so that t'ne matter could he heard early.

(hi) To save the Court's time. Hon'ble the Chief Justice is talcing mentioning metters, which takes about one hour on each day. after the court hours.

dv) Supicme Court Rules have been amended empowering Hon'ble Judge in Chambers and the Registrar to dispose of certain types of matters wVnch were previously being listed in the court. This has been done to save the Court's time.

(v) Specialised benches are constituted bv' Hon'ble the Chief Justice and particuhr types of matters are assigned to such specialised benches fo,- quick disposal.

(vi) Computer technology is soon going t* be introduced in the Supreme Couit. which is expected to help, reduce the backlog of cases considerably.

ivii) Recently Hon'ble t'ne Chief Justice has directed that the counsel in each matte$_{r}$ should file written arguments, if the arguments are to take more than five hours on each side. Tne ora] arguments on each side are now restricted to five hours unless the Court feels that more time is to be given to th$_{e}$ counsel in which case a maximum of ten hours are given for oral arguments to counsel on each side. The length of oral arguments bv counsel of both the sides has thus been curtailed with a view to securing cpskk disposal of matters.

(viii) A Court Administrator-cum-Registrap General, who is a i&aior judicial officer has been appoiried very recently so that in conjunction with the present two Registrar;, there can be a re-organisation of the v.ork-inj; of ihe Registry and improving its techniques and efficiency.

Approval of sardar Sarovar and Narmada Canal Irrigation Projects

467. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to slate:

Un whether Sarda, Sarover Project and Narmada Canal Irrigation Project are finally approved by all the concerned departments of ihe Government ol lndia;

(b) whelher it is a faci that on aim-pletion Narmada Project would -ive twenty five per cent leturn every year on total investment: and

le) w heftier it is also fact that the Gujarat Government have taken required precautions for the safeguards *of* the environment and the rehabililation of the oustees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRTSHNA SAHH: fa) Yes, Sir.

(b) The benefit cost ratio of the pro ject was worked out to be about *2*

(c) The State Govei nment have prepared an action plan for safeguarding the en vironment and rehabilitation of the oustees.

Per Hectare cost of Major Dam;

468. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

fa) the per hectare cost of major dams completed and sanctioned during the last three years;